Flexible Training Scheme

School Quitters Find a Future In New Program

This is the third in a series of articles written by Greater Victoria school district administrators to focus attention on our schools during Canadian Education Week.

By H. P. MICKELSON
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In any large school district, scores of students leave school each year before completing their secondary education. In Greater Victoria, the number reaches about 250 annually.

How many of these students find suitable employment? Indications are that fewer than half of the "drop-outs" do find work, suitable or otherwise. It is especially difficult for students to find employment when they are only 15, the age at which many leave because they can legally do so.

Employers usually want students who are at least 17 years of age, who are strong physically, who have pleasing personalities and good characters, as well as satisfactory school records. Trade unions demand that all employees be qualified for minimum wages unless they are officially designed as apprentices.

HANDICAPPED

In face of these circumstances, students leaving school between the ages of 15 and 17, with Grade 10 or less standing, are definitely handicapped.

What should and can the school do for these students, who, for one reason or another can apparently no longer profit from the regular academic program of the school?

The assumption underlying this question is that the basic reason why most students leave school is that they are not doing well scholastically. They may not have the scholastic ability, or, if they have more ability, they do not show it because of lack of interest and drive.

FRUSTRATION

What appears to be laziness is often really a feeling of failure and frustration. It follows, therefore, that if the school program could be modified so that these students were successful in their work they might realize that they have talents, aptitudes and qualities of which they were not aware previously.

The Greater Victoria School Board is planning to start an experimental pre-employment training program in September for a group of about 20 boys who do not wish to stay in regular classes. The class will be accommodated in a secondary school and will follow a flexible program including training in practical aspects of English, mathematics and social studies.

It will include woodwork, metalwork and electricity, elements of some commercial courses, physical education, safety training, personal development and job analysis. It may also include industrial field trips and actual work experience under special supervision.

FIND JOB

After one year of such training, the student will be assisted to do one of the following: 1) find suitable employment, 2) continue with further training, 3) re-enter the regular program of a high school or 4) be assisted to plan further training elsewhere, for examples, the technical school in Vancouver or Nanaimo, or the vocational high school in Victoria.

Will such a class cost money? Yes, of course, but not nearly as much as the cost to the community of allowing some of these students to drift into anti-social attitudes and behavior.

FORCED FIRST

In times of economic recession poorly trained people are the first to be forced to accept social assistance or other forms of aid from tax funds.

The Greater Victoria school board is taking a positive approach to this problem. It believes that all students can become well-trained, competent citizens, providing the right type of curriculum is provided for each.

Nudist Miss Asks Duke: Share Sun

LONDON (Reuters)—An 18-year-old girl nudist has invited the Duke of Bedford to spend a sunbathing weekend with her.

Invitation was issued when the duke—host to a nudist convention last year—went to see the premiere of a movie called Around the World With Nothing On. A bikini-clad starlet asked "Will Your Grace spend a sunbathing weekend with my nudist family?"

Replied the duke: "Don't you think we had better wait until the weather gets warmer?" Said she: "All right, that's a date then. So glad you can come."

A reporter remarked, "Your name is almost a symbol of nudism now."

His Grace replied: "Oh shut up, will you?"

U.K. Fears Africa Massacre

BLANTYRE, Nyasaland (CP) — Rioting spread across Nyasaland Tuesday on the heels of the arrest of African nationalist leaders and by nightfall 26 Africans were reported killed by security police who battled the mobs with bullets, clubs and tear gas.

Trouble that began 10 days ago with demonstrations against white rule erupted into violence throughout the 46,000-square-mile territory when Governor Sir Robert Armitage declared a state of emergency and began the mass arrests.

In London, Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd told the House of Commons Tuesday night he had secret information that African leaders in Nyasaland had planned a massacre of Europeans, Asians and moderate Africans.

He was speaking on the bloody clashes in Nyasaland, a British protectorate and part of the Rhodesian federation, during a tense hard-hitting emergency debate in the House which ended in a 259-to-204 vote of confidence for the government.

Opposition leaders attacked the government for its handling of the problem. James Callaghan, the Labor party's chief spokesman on colonial affairs, accused the government of cowardice.

* * *

DR. HASTINGS BANDA
. . . wondered when

* * *

The bloodiest rioting was reported from Nkata Bay where, in addition to the 20 dead, 13 Africans were wounded.

The Nkata Bay shooting broke out when a mob tried to break through a cordon of security forces to release prisoners jailed under the emergency regulations. Meetings and public gatherings are banned under the regulations.

Security forces opened fire and turned back the mob, reports from the area said.

Three more Africans were shot to death by police in the Blantyre-Limbe area and two died at Karonga near the Tanganyika border when police opened fire on a crowd of 2,000 natives. Another was killed in the Fort Manning area when police dispersed demonstrators with gunfire.

Dr. Hastings Banda, president of the Nyasaland branch of the African National Congress, was arrested and removed from the protectorate.

Banda, who returned to Nyasaland last July after 40 years abroad, wants an end to the "white settler" rule in his country and is opposed to the Central African Federation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The London-trained surgeon, flown to Tanganyika, was taken to the airport wearing a blue silk dressing gown over his pyjamas. He took other clothes with him and changed at the airport. Then he was placed aboard a waiting plane.

When police woke him to arrest him, he told them:

"I wondered when you were coming."

The political leader had been defying authorities to arrest him almost from the moment he returned to his native Nyasaland last year from his long exile in the United States and Britain.

Airmen's Acquittal 'Big Error'—Castro

HAVANA (UPI) — Fidel Castro said yesterday his revolutionary government would seek to upset the verdict of a Santiago revolutionary court acquitting 43 airmen of charges of genocide stemming from their air missions in Oriente province during the civil war.

Castro, in a blistering attack on the verdict, called it a "great error" and a "service to (ousted dictator) Batista."

"We will be forced to intervene in this matter," Castro said. "We did not make the revolution for this."

BECOME MERCENARIES

According to Castro, freeing the airmen "will only serve to make aviation mercenaries available to (Dominican Republic strongman) Trujillo and other enemies of the revolution so that they can again bomb the civil population of Cuba."

Castro called on the people of Santiago to remain calm in the face of the verdict. "The verdict will be appealed and a just tribunal will judge these events anew," he said.

Hundreds of persons in Santiago staged street demonstrations to protest the verdict and revolutionary authorities moved the acquitted fliers to the provincial jail at nearby Boniato for their own safety.

Meanwhile, five other men were executed by firing squads in Palma Soriano, Oriente province, bringing to 384 the unofficial total of those who have received the death penalty before revolutionary courts.

Fifteen others were condemned to death in various parts of Cuba and 29 were sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to 32 years.

In another development, an organization identifying itself as the "Caribbean democratic movement" called on the revolutionary government to declare Porfirio Rubirosa, ambassador from the Dominican Republic, not welcome, on the grounds that he was the "agent of anti-Cuban plans" by Trujillo. Rubirosa is the former husband of Trujillo's daughter, of American heiresses Doris Duke and Barbara Hutton and of movie actress Danielle Darrieux.

Frost 'Stalling'

TORONTO (UPI) Ontario Liberal leader John Wintermeyer last night accused Premier Leslie Frost of postponing a Dominion-provincial conference because "it would be politically embarrassing for him to go to Ottawa and come back cap in hand."

Wintermeyer told the Ontario legislature Frost could have the conference any time he wanted but "he knows it would be abortive because of the federal government's feelings."

Frost replied that the steps being taken towards such a conference were "the greatest such steps in the history of this country."

"They owe us $100,000,000," the premier added.

Wintermeyer replied, "They haven't got it to give to you and you won't ask them for it."

Kitchener Marks Fatality-Free Year

KITCHENER, Ont. (CP) — Kitchener has completed one year and two days without a traffic fatality of any kind and three years without a child traffic death.

Pet-Torture Reward Up

Len Page, SPCA secretary-manager announced yesterday an increase to $145 in rewards offered for apprehension of whoever is responsible for recent mutilation of six cats and four dogs.

Of this amount, $50 was offered anonymously; $25 from S. J. Youson, 1621 Ruby, and $10 from G. M. Erb, 1488 Beach. Earlier, $25 each had been posted by the SPCA and Cats' Protection League, and $10 by Mrs. W. B. Williams, 1086 St. Louis.

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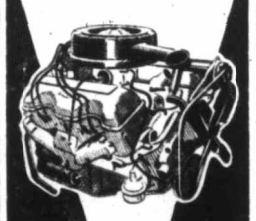
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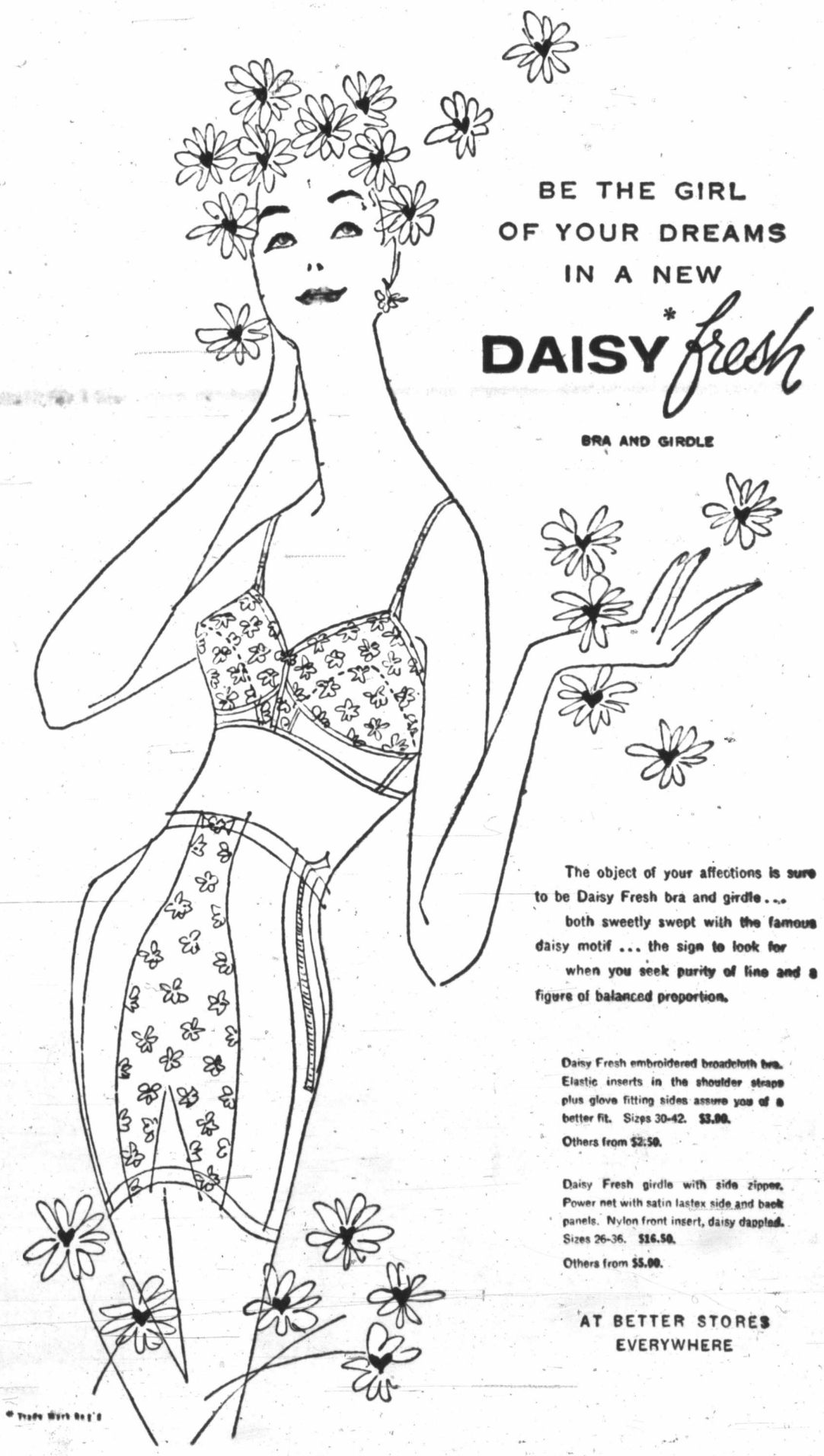
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